

Fuel Safety Bulletin

1997-04

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A lot has happened here since our last Bulletin and we feel the importance of bringing everyone up to date as well as addressing a few concerns which have been passed on to us.

The first regulatory review of the LP Gas Installation and Equipment Regulations has started. These regulations first came into effect in 1978 and, with minor changes, have remained unchanged to this date. As you can well imagine, the need for updating these regulations is great. Should any of you have any “pet peeves” or suggestions, please call me at 1-800-558-3473. All suggestions are gratefully accepted.

Work is underway to make our trade a recognized trade with the Apprenticeship Training Board. In the future, it is planned that technicians will be trained and certified by that Board and this is the first step toward a National certification program.

Then final part of this bulletin will deal with problems/issues which have arisen over the past few months which we feel that you all should be made aware of. They are as follows;

- 1/ Durable Restaurant Equipment:** International Approval Services have recently informed us that most Durable equipment may bear an illegal CGA certification label. If you have an older piece of Durable equipment to be installed, call us to confirm certification before installation.
- 2/ Pipe straps / clamps :**To prevent galvanic action and resultant corrosion at clamps the clamps must be of the same material as the piping or tubing clamped. An acceptable alternative would be to wrap the pipe/tube, at the clamp, with a pipe tape.
- 3/ Electric vaporizers :**Yes, these units and their attached piping must be fenced. If the cost of enclosing the tank/vaporizer installation is prohibitive, an approved cabinet may be constructed to enclose these items. All relief valves and vents must be piped outside these cabinets and the cabinets must be kept locked at all times.
Experience has shown that these units also need a heavy-end trap .
The electric supply feed to the vaporizer may be run in the same trench as the propane supply to the building.
- 4/ Plastic underground piping :** Clause 6.15.14 of the CSA B149.1 requires a tracer wire or tape with this product. Please ensure that the tracer wire or tape extends above grade level at both ends of the underground piping run. It may be attached to the riser at that point.
- 5/ Construction heaters :** With the construction heat season upon us, please familiarize yourselves with Subsection 6.20.3(c) and Section 7.18 of the CSA B149.1 Code and Section 6.5.3 of the CSA B149.2 Code
Please remember that, as 100 pound propane cylinders are NOT cash-and-carry- type cylinders, the owner of the cylinders, and ultimately, the cylinder delivery driver, is responsible for cylinder storage locations at these construction sites.

6/ Fuel Safety Licensing :Once again it has been brought to our attention that unlicensed companies and contractors are engaging in work which requires a license. Please review sections 7 thru 10 of the Regulations and remember that this is not the same thing as certification

7/ Tank/cylinder removal : Once again we are noticing a number of businesses being closed down, but the propane cylinders/tanks remain on the site for months or even years after the building is vacated. While there may be a good reason for this (building heat - seasonal business) , it is often done for reasons of expediency. This is simply not acceptable. Unless there is a valid reason for the propane containers remaining on a vacant building, they shall be removed with all possible haste.

8/ Appliances in bathrooms: We have been asked, recently, if clothes dryers could be installed in bathrooms. The answer to this is a resounding yes. While a bathroom exhaust fan can overcome a natural draft or fan-assisted vent, the dryer exhaust has sufficient power to safely exhaust all products of combustion.

9/ Permanent Barbecue hookups: Many homeowners who already have appliances in their homes are asking if they can have their barbecue connected to their large propane storage cylinder/tank or natural gas piping, for reasons of convenience. This is an acceptable practice provided that a number of items are addressed.

a. The building piping shall be securely clamped steel piping and shall include an approved shut- off valve.

b. Directly downstream from the above noted valve, on the end of the line, an approved outdoor quick-disconnect device shall be installed.

c. The barbecue's hose/regulator assembly shall be replaced with an approved hose assembly.

NOTE: Never use copper or an appliance connector for this purpose.

d. The barbecue shall have it's wheels removed and it shall be bolted to the deck/patio to prevent movement. An alternate arrangement would be to chain the barbecue to the wall to prevent movement of the barbecue to a distance not more than 75% of the length of the connecting hose.

10/Installations on row-housing: A problem has recently arisen in the Metro area which , we feel, is not unique to the area. The problem is the filling of propane cylinders installed on the middle units of a multi unit row-house unit. The problem is only on units which have no direct access to the "backyard" area , necessitating pulling the bulk fill hose through another person's yard from a truck parked in front of the housing unit. Not only does this present a real hazard in the event that a leak should occur at, or near, the truck would go undetected by the driver The second problem is that the pulling of a delivery hose through someone else's yard is an invasion of privacy and, if stopped by the owner, would leave your customer without a fuel supply.

The final warning here is to think about delivery problems before you do an installation in one of these housing units.

11/ Flexible appliance connectors: It would seem that some sales people and managers are not seeing the "need" for these connectors on appliances which are already in service or in installations which are in use. It is imperative that these connectors be installed whenever the existing copper connector is disconnected or whenever an inspection reveals a damaged copper connector. These connectors must also be installed on all vibration-producing appliances (dryers, furnaces, etc.) When a service person works on an installation.

Of course, installation of a copper appliance connector is strictly forbidden on any appliance.

12/ CSA Special approval service : We are, once again, starting to see an abuse of this service with companies submitting the special approval forms directly to CSA without consulting with this office.

We would like to clarify where, and how, this service is to be used in the future;

- a. This service is only to be used for “one-off” approval of a special piece of equipment.
- b. This service may only be used with the prior approval of this Office.
- c. All forms for this service are available from this Office and all submissions are to be made to this Office. We must approve the submission and will forward the submission to CSA

In the future, any submissions directly to CSA will be returned here for our approval.

As these Bulletins are planned to be a semi-regular publication of this Office, we welcome your questions and observations regarding our industry. If you have an item which you think should be addressed or that others would benefit from, please call us and we will publish it in the next Bulletin.

Thanks and Best Regards

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